

briefly—which I tend to do right before we go into a recess—and also look forward, very briefly.

Let me summarize the last 3 weeks as being gratifyingly productive. I say that because last Thursday, by a vote of 72 to 26, the Senate passed the Class Action Fairness Act. The process was bipartisan throughout. It was a great legislative victory for the Senate and, subsequently, for the House of Representatives, which passed the bill today. Soon the President will sign this very important issue that addresses lawsuit abuses.

Senator GRASSLEY, who was the lead sponsor of the bill, had been working on class action reform for over a decade. Last week, we finally delivered. I commend my colleagues for their fairness and their cooperation.

I applaud also Senator ARLEN SPECTER, who has not been with us the last couple of days, but I talked to him a few minutes ago, and he is doing very well. I applaud him for his leadership because it was through his committee, the Judiciary Committee, that class action was first addressed and brought to the floor, again, with a bipartisan vote, and ultimately passed. I thank Senator SPECTER for his tremendous leadership.

Building on the momentum of the class action bill, we passed the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act today, not too long ago, with a vote of 98 to 0. I once again thank Senator OLYMPIA SNOWE, who was the lead sponsor of that legislation and has been one of its leading champions for many years. It was a bipartisan piece of legislation, obviously, with a vote of 98 to 0.

On the other side of the aisle, Senator KENNEDY, and on our side of the aisle, Senator GREGG and Senator MIKE ENZI—all of them have been thanked over the course of the day. I thank them. And I thank the Democratic leader, as well, Senator REID, for facilitating passage of this important piece of legislation.

When this bill becomes the law of the land, it will prevent health insurers from what can be very tempting for an unscrupulous health insurer, and that would be to reach down and grab information that is important to a patient but that information could be used against the patient.

It will prevent insurers from charging higher premiums based on the results of genetic testing. It will also prohibit employers from potentially using genetic information when considering hiring or firing somebody or considering job promotions.

This bill, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act, is a model of how again we can lead today on tomorrow's problems. As the science advances, genetic tests will be used with increasing frequency, and the likelihood, without this bill, would be for abuse of this genetic information. It is hugely powerful for the patient, but if misused, detrimental to the patient.

This legislation addresses that potential problem right up front and prevents that from happening.

Over the last 3 weeks, we also confirmed the last of the President's Cabinet nominees. We approved Condoleezza Rice as Secretary of State, Alberto Gonzales as Attorney General, Samuel Bodman to lead the Energy Department, and Michael Chertoff as head of the Department of Homeland Security.

Earlier today, the President announced his selection of John Negroponte to serve as the Director of National Intelligence. We had the opportunity last night to have a presentation, an exchange of information, with Ambassador Negroponte, who is serving us so well today in Iraq.

Ambassador Negroponte, as Director of National Intelligence, will be responsible for revamping and integrating America's 15 intelligence-gathering services. As the U.S. Ambassador to Iraq and the United Nations, he has proven his ability to manage complicated organizations and tackle the difficult challenges we face today under intense pressure.

He understands the needs of policymakers, and he understands how the executive branch works. I look forward to his swift confirmation. I look forward, personally, to working with Ambassador Negroponte in the weeks and months ahead. I hope we will be able to consider his confirmation process in the very near future.

The Senate has spoken out on some of the most important issues of the day as well: the Iraqi elections, the Palestinian elections, the assassination of Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri.

When we return from our short recess—and, again, most people will be going back to their States in order to be with their constituents over the next week—we will continue keeping our eye on events at home as well as abroad. We will return after our recess to look at issues such as bankruptcy, which we will address as soon as we come back. We will address the supplemental the President has delivered to us. And, of course, we will be addressing the budget as well.

As I promised when we began the 109th Congress, it is our job to deliver meaningful solutions on the challenges that are ahead.

It is our duty and our privilege to keep America moving forward.

#### RULES OF PROCEDURE— COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, the Senate Appropriations Committee has adopted rules governing its procedures for the 109th Congress. Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 2, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, on behalf of myself and Senator BYRD, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the committee rules be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE RULES— 109TH CONGRESS

##### I. MEETINGS

The Committee will meet at the call of the Chairman.

##### II. QUORUMS

1. Reporting a bill. A majority of the members must be present for the reporting of a bill.

2. Other business. For the purpose of transacting business other than reporting a bill or taking testimony, one-third of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

3. Taking testimony. For the purpose of taking testimony, other than sworn testimony, by the Committee or any subcommittee, one member of the Committee or subcommittee shall constitute a quorum. For the purpose of taking sworn testimony by the Committee, three members shall constitute a quorum, and for the taking of sworn testimony by any subcommittee, one member shall constitute a quorum.

##### III. PROXIES

Except for the reporting of a bill, votes may be cast by proxy when any member so requests.

##### IV. ATTENDANCE OF STAFF MEMBERS AT CLOSED SESSIONS

Attendance of staff members at closed sessions of the Committee shall be limited to those members of the Committee staff who have a responsibility associated with the matter being considered at such meeting. This rule may be waived by unanimous consent.

##### V. BROADCASTING AND PHOTOGRAPHING OF COMMITTEE HEARINGS

The Committee or any of its subcommittees may permit the photographing and broadcast of open hearings by television and/or radio. However, if any member of a subcommittee objects to the photographing or broadcasting of an open hearing, the question shall be referred to the full Committee for its decision.

##### VI. AVAILABILITY OF SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

To the extent possible, when the bill and report of any subcommittee are available, they shall be furnished to each member of the Committee thirty-six hours prior to the Committee's consideration of said bill and report.

##### VII. AMENDMENTS AND REPORT LANGUAGE

To the extent possible, amendments and report language intended to be proposed by Senators at full Committee markups shall be provided in writing to the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member and the appropriate Subcommittee Chairman and Ranking Minority Member twenty-four hours prior to such markups.

##### VIII. POINTS OF ORDER

Any member of the Committee who is floor manager of an appropriations bill, is hereby authorized to make points of order against any amendment offered in violation of the Senate Rules on the floor of the Senate to such appropriations bill.

##### IX. EX OFFICIO MEMBERSHIP

The Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the full Committee are ex officio members of all subcommittees of which they are not regular members but shall have no vote in the subcommittee and shall not be counted for purposes of determining a quorum.

#### RULES OF PROCEDURE—COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, in accordance with rule XXVI.2. of the